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10/049,148	02/08/2002	Stephan Schambach	376.11	8195

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EXAMINER
ALI, MOHAMMAD

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
2177	4

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DATE MAILED: 07/13/2004

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)	
	10/049,148	SCHAMBACH ET AL.	
	Examiner	Art Unit	
	Mohammad Ali	2177	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

1)☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on *08 February 2002*.

2a)☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b)☒ This action is non-final.

3)☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

4)☒ Claim(s) *1-22* is/are pending in the application.

4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.

5)☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.

6)☒ Claim(s) *1-22* is/are rejected.

7)☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.

8)☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

9)☒ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.

10)☒ The drawing(s) filed on *08 February 2002* is/are: a)☐ accepted or b)☒ objected to by the Examiner.

Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).

Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).

11)☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

12)☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).

a)☒ All b)☐ Some * c)☐ None of:

1.☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.

2.☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.

3.☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08) Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____.
4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____.
5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
6) ☐ Other: _____.

DETAILED ACTION

1. This communication is in response to the preliminary amendment filed on February 08, 2002.

The application has been examined. Claims 1-22 are pending in this Office Action.

Drawing objections

2. The drawings are objected to because they fail to show necessary textual labels of features or symbols in Figs. 1, 3, and 4 as described in the specification. For example, placing a label, "database", with elements 21, 31 of Fig. 1, would give the viewer necessary detail to fully understand this element at a glance. A *descriptive* textual label for *each numbered element* in these figures would be needed to fully and better understand these figures without substantial analysis of the detailed specification. Any structural detail that is of sufficient importance to be described should be shown in the drawing. Optionally, applicant may wish to include a table next to the present figure to fulfill this requirement. See 37 CFR 1.83. 37 CFR 1.84(n)(o) is recited below:
"(n) Symbols. Graphical drawing symbols may be used for conventional elements when appropriate. The elements for which such symbols and labeled representations are used must be adequately identified in the specification. Known devices should be illustrated by symbols which have a universally recognized conventional meaning and are generally accepted in the art. Other symbols which are not universally recognized may be used, subject to approval by the Office, if they are not likely to be confused with existing conventional symbols, and if they are readily identifiable.

(o) Legends. Suitable descriptive legends may be used, or may be required by the Examiner, where necessary for understanding of the drawing, subject to approval by the Office.

Specification

Content of Specification

(e) Background of the Invention: See MPEP § 608.01(c). The specification should set forth the Background of the Invention in two parts:

(1) Field of the Invention: A statement of the field of art to which the invention pertains. This statement may include a paraphrasing of the applicable U.S. patent classification definitions of the subject matter of the claimed invention. This item may also be titled "Technical Field."

(2) Description of the Related Art including information disclosed under 37 CFR 1.97 and 37 CFR 1.98: A description of the related art known to the applicant and including, if applicable, references to specific related art and problems involved in the prior art which are solved by the applicant's invention. This item may also be titled "Background Art."

(f) Brief Summary of the Invention: See MPEP § 608.01(d). A brief summary or general statement of the invention as set forth in 37 CFR 1.73. The summary is separate and distinct from the abstract and is directed toward the invention rather than the disclosure as a whole. The summary may point out the advantages of the invention or how it solves problems previously existent in the prior art (and preferably indicated in the Background of the Invention). In chemical cases it should point out in general terms the utility of the invention. If possible, the nature and gist of the invention or the inventive concept should be set forth. Objects of the invention should be treated briefly and only to the extent that they contribute to an understanding of the invention.

(g) Brief Description of the Several Views of the Drawing(s): See MPEP § 608.01(f). A reference to and brief description of the drawing(s) as set forth in 37 CFR 1.74.

(h) Detailed Description of the Invention: See MPEP § 608.01(g). A description of the preferred embodiment(s) of the invention as required in 37 CFR 1.71. The description should be as short and specific as is necessary to describe the invention adequately and accurately. Where elements or groups of elements, compounds, and processes, which are conventional and generally widely known in the field of the invention described and their exact nature or type is not necessary for an understanding and use of the invention by a person skilled in the art, they should not be described in detail. However, where particularly complicated subject matter is involved or where the elements, compounds, or processes may not be commonly or widely known in the field, the specification should refer to another patent or readily available publication which adequately describes the subject matter.

Proper headings are missing.

Appropriate correction is required.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

3. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

> (a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negatived by the manner in which the invention was made.

This application currently names joint inventors. In considering patentability of the claims under 35 U.S.C. 103(a), the examiner presumes that the subject matter of the various claims was commonly owned at the time any inventions covered therein were made absent any evidence to the contrary. Applicant is advised of the obligation under 37 CFR 1.56 to point out the inventor and invention dates of each claim that was not commonly owned at the time a later invention was made in order for the examiner to consider the applicability of 35 U.S.C. 103(c) and potential 35 U.S.C. 102(e), (f) or (g) prior art under 35 U.S.C. 103(a).

4. Claims 1-22 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Timothy Sixtus ('Sixtus' hereafter), USP 5,903,721 in view of Helland et al. ('Helland' hereinafter), USP 5,890,161.

With respect to claim 1,

Sixtus discloses a method of processing an online transaction over a communication network (see col. 3, lines 28-32, Fig. 1), comprising the steps of:

storing a plurality of objects comprising object data and object attibutes containing further information about the object in a catalog server (20) accessible by a plurality of clients (10) (see col. 3, lines 28-43, Fig. 1, Sixtus),

displaying, upon request from a client (10), an object including object attributes on a client display (see col. 7, lines 60-66, Fig. 4A, Sixtus), and

executing, on a transaction server (30), a transaction relating to an object selected by the client (10) using the information contained in the object attributes (see col. 8, lines 1-5, Fig. 4A, Sixtus),

wherein the object attributes are transmitted directly from the catalog server (20) to the transaction server (30) (see col. 9, lines 29-30 et seq, Sixtus).

Sixtus does not explicitly indicate the claimed catalog server.

Helland discloses claimed catalog server (registering COM attributes and the transaction server execution attribute in the system registry, the server application component is registered in a transaction server catalog, see col. 11, lines 64-67, Fig. 3, Helland).

It would have been obvious to one ordinary skill in the data processing art at the time of the present invention to combine teachings of cited references because catalog server of Helland's teachings would have allowed Sixtus system for transaction processing with the server application components as suggested by Helland. Further, catalog as taught by Helland improves for transactional attribute of a server application component to performs multiple database updates (see col. 4, lines 1-3, Helland).

With respect to claim 2,

Sixtus discloses a method of processing an online transaction over a communication network comprising (see col. 3, lines 28-32, Fig. 1) the steps of:

storing in a catalog server (20) a plurality of objects comprising object data and object attributes containing further information about the object and further storing an ID identifying the object (see col. 3, lines 28-43, Fig. 1, Sixtus),

transmitting upon request an object together with the corresponding object ID from the catlog server (20) to a client (10) for display (see col. 7, lines 60-66, Fig. 4A, Sixtus),

receiving at the catalog server (20) an object request from a transaction server (30), the request including the object ID (see col. 3, lines 40-43, Fig. 1, Sixtus),

returning from the catalog server (20) to the transaction server (30) the

object including object attributes corresponding to the received object ID. Sixtus does not explicitly indicate the claimed catalog server (see col. 3, lines 50-59, Fig. 1, Sixtus).

Helland discloses claimed catalog server (registering COM attributes and the transaction server execution attribute in the system registry, the server application component is registered in a transaction server catalog, see col. 11, lines 64-67, Fig. 3, Helland).

It would have been obvious to one ordinary skill in the data processing art at the time of the present invention to combine teachings of cited references because catalog server of Helland's teachings would have allowed Sixtus system for transaction processing with the server application components as suggested

by Helland. Further, catalog as taught by Helland improves for transactional attribute of a server application component to performs multiple database updates (see col. 4, lines 1-3, Helland).

With respect to claim 3,

Sixtus discloses a method of processing an online transaction over a communication network (see col. 3, lines 28-32, Fig. 1) comprising the steps of:

receiving at a transaction server (30) a transaction request with respect to a specific object comprising object data and object attributes containing further information about the object (see col. 3, lines 35-40, Fig. 1, Sixtus),

the request including an object ID identifying that object, the transaction server (30) requesting the object from a catalog server (20), the request including the object ID (see col. 3, lines 40-43, Fig. 1, Sixtus),

receiving at the transaction server (30) from the catalog server (20) the selected object including object attributes (see col. 4, lines 1-5, Fig. 1, Sixtus), and

executing the transaction on the transaction server (30) (see col. 8, lines 1-5, Fig. 4A, Sixtus).

Sixtus does not explicitly indicate the claimed catalog server.

Helland discloses claimed catalog server (registering COM attributes and the transaction server execution attribute in the system registry, the server application component is registered in a transaction server catalog, see col. 11, lines 64-67, Fig. 3, Helland).

It would have been obvious to one ordinary skill in the data processing art at the time of the present invention to combine teachings of cited references because catalog server of Helland's teachings would have allowed Sixtus system for transaction processing with the server application components as suggested by Helland. Further, catalog as taught by Helland improves for transactional attribute of a server application component to performs multiple database updates (see col. 4, lines 1-3, Helland).

As to claim 4,

Sixtus teaches a wherein the object ID is transmitted from the catalog server (20) to the client (1 0) together with the URL of the server (30) (see col. 7, lines 60-66, Fig. 4A, Sixtus).

As to claim 5,

Sixtus teaches wherein the URL additionally contains a command for executing a specific process on the transaction server (30) (see col. 7, lines 60-66, Fig. 4A, Sixtus).

As to claim 6,

Sixtus teaches wherein the object displayed on a client display is assigned a display field for user selection of the object, wherein the selection of the object by a user initiates a transfer of the ID to the URL of the transaction server (30) (see col. 7, lines 60-66, Fig. 4A et seq, Sixtus).

As to claim 7,

Sixtus teaches wherein the object attributes are represented by numerical values and/or text strings (see col. 9, lines 25-30, Fig. 4A et seq, Sixtus).

As to claim 8,

Sixtus teaches wherein an object attribute represents price information about the object (see col. 9, lines 25-30, Fig. 4A, Sixtus).

As to claim 9,

Sixtus teaches wherein the objects can be transmitted to the client for display in different formats including XML, HTML, XHTML or WML formats (see col. 7, lines 60-61, Fig. 4A, Sixtus).

As to claim 10,

Sixtus teaches wherein an object selected by a client is stored on the transaction server together with the corresponding object attribute and a client specific session ID (see col. 8, lines 1-5, Fig. 4A, Sixtus).

As to claim 11,

Sixtus teaches wherein the transaction server forwards to a client a request for finally confirming the transaction before executing the transaction.

Claims 12 and 13 have the same subject matter as of claim 1 as described above and essentially rejected for the same reasons.

With respect to claim 14,

Sixtus discloses a computer system (see Fig. 1) comprising:

a catalog server (20) for storing a plurality of objects comprising object data and object attributes containing further information about the object (see col. 3, lines 28-43, Fig. 1, Sixtus), and

for storing an object ID identifying an object, the catalog server (20) being accessible by a plurality of clients (see col. 3, lines 28-43, Fig. 1, Sixtus), and

a transaction server (30) accessible for a plurality of clients (10) for executing online transactions with respect to the objects stored in the catalog server (20) (see col. 3, lines 50-60, Fig. 1, Sixtus),

wherein the object attributes are transmittable directly from the catalog server (20) to the transaction server (30) without client interaction (see col. 4, lines 1-10 et seq, Sixtus).

Sixtus does not explicitly indicate the claimed catalog server.

Helland discloses claimed catalog server (registering COM attributes and the transaction server execution attribute in the system registry, the server application component is registered in a transaction server catalog, see col. 11, lines 64-67, Fig. 3, Helland).

It would have been obvious to one ordinary skill in the data processing art at the time of the present invention to combine teachings of cited references because catalog server of Helland's teachings would have allowed Sixtus system for transaction processing with the server application components as suggested by Helland. Further, catalog as taught by Helland improves for transactional attribute of a server application component to performs multiple database updates (see col. 4, lines 1-3, Helland).

With respect to claim 15,

Sixtus discloses a catalog server (20) (see Fig. 1) comprising

a storage unit (21) for storing objects for online transactions, the objects comprising object data and object attributes containing further information about

the object (see col. 3, lines 28-43, Fig. 1 et seq, Sixtus), wherein the objects are assigned object IDs identifying the object (see col. 3, lines 50-59, Sixtus), and

an output unit for outputting at least one object attribute upon receiving the corresponding object ID (see col. 7, lines 45-47, Sixtus).

Sixtus does not explicitly indicate the claimed catalog server.

Helland discloses claimed catalog server (registering COM attributes and the transaction server execution attribute in the system registry, the server application component is registered in a transaction server catalog, see col. 11, lines 64-67, Fig. 3, Helland).

It would have been obvious to one ordinary skill in the data processing art at the time of the present invention to combine teachings of cited references because catalog server of Helland's teachings would have allowed Sixtus system for transaction processing with the server application components as suggested by Helland. Further, catalog as taught by Helland improves for transactional attribute of a server application component to performs multiple database updates (see col. 4, lines 1-3, Helland).

As to claim 16,

Sixtus teaches wherein the object attributes are represented by numerical values or text strings (see col. 9, lines 25-31, Sixtus).

As to claim 17,

Sixtus discloses a wherein the object attributes contain price information about the object (see col. 9, lines 25-31, Sixtus).

As to claim 18,

Sixtus teaches a wherein the stored objects can be transmitted to a client for display in different formats including XML, HTML, XHTML and WML formats (see col. 7, lines 60-61, Fig. 4A, Sixtus).

With respect to claim 19,

Sixtus discloses a transaction server (20) for executing online transactions over a communication network comprising a processing unit (see col. 3, lines 28-32, Fig. 1)

for receiving a transaction request from a client (10) requesting an online transaction relating to a specific object, the request containing object data and an object ID identifying the object (see col. 3, lines 28-43, Fig. 1, Sixtus),

requesting from a catalog server (20) object attributes containing further information about the object selected by the users the request containing the object ID (see col. 8, lines 1-5, Fig. 4A et seq, Sixtus), and

executing the online transaction using the information contained in the object attributes received from the catalog server (20) (see col. 8, lines 1-5, Fig. 4A, Sixtus).

Sixtus does not explicitly indicate the claimed catalog server.

Helland discloses claimed catalog server (registering COM attributes and the transaction server execution attribute in the system registry, the server application component is registered in a transaction server catalog, see col. 11, lines 64-67, Fig. 3, Helland).

It would have been obvious to one ordinary skill in the data processing art at the time of the present invention to combine teachings of cited references

because catalog server of Helland's teachings would have allowed Sixtus system for transaction processing with the server application components as suggested by Helland. Further, catalog as taught by Helland improves for transactional attribute of a server application component to performs multiple database updates (see col. 4, lines 1-3, Helland).

As to claim 20,

Sixtus teaches a comprising a confirmation unit forwarding to the client (10) a confirmation request, and executing the online transaction only after having received a confirmation from the client (10) (see col. 8, lines 1-5, Fig. 4A, Sixtus).

As to claim 21,

Sixtus teaches a wherein the object displayed on a client display is assigned a display field for user selection of the object, wherein the selection of the object by a user initiates a transfer of the m to the t4kl., of the transaction server (30) (see col. 7, lines 60-66, Fig. 4A, Sixtus).

As to claim 22,

Sixtus discloses a wherein tht object displayed on a client display is associated a display field for user selection of the object, wherein the selection of the object by a user initiates a transfer of the ID to the URL of the transaction server (30) (see col. 7, lines 60-66, Fig. 4A, et seq Sixtus).

Contact Information

5. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Mohammad Ali whose telephone number is (703) 605-4356. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday to Thursday from 7:30am-6:00pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, John Breene can be reached on (703) 305-9790 or Customer Service (703) 306-5631. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is (703) 872-9306 for any communications. Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is (703) 305-9600.

Mohammad Ali

Patent Examiner

AU 2177

MA

June 27, 2004